

29 February 1984

## Talking Points on Current CBW Issues

- -- Public and Intelligence Community attention continues to focus primarily on the issue of chemical/toxin use in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan.
  - -- the recent State Department submission to the UN is based upon the intelligence assessment that there has been greatly diminished use in 1983 in Southeast Asia and no confirmed evidence of use in 1983 in Afghanistan.
- -- The recent fast-track SNIE identified a program in the Soviet Union to use advanced biotechnologies, including genetic engineering, for the development of novel BCW agents.
  - -- The program is large and well-funded.
  - -- This means that the Soviets can develop a much broader range of BCW agents, and can do so under conditions that will make detection of production and use nearly impossible.

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